

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 57-75 as follows:

Claims 1-56 (canceled)

Claim 57 (currently amended): A computer-implemented method of reducing risk in a payment-based transaction wherein a payment is made from an account holder to a ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty using a payment bank system operated by a payment bank, the said method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving at least one user-supplied risk parameter associated with the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty;

(b) receiving a first instruction authorizing payment from the account holder to the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty;

(c) storing the first instruction in a payment queue; and

(d) ~~during processing of the payment transaction, performing a~~ executing a risk filter routine ~~that determines whether to selectively reject payment authorized by the first instruction based upon the at least one user-supplied risk parameter associated with the Counterparty~~ determining the processing of a payment transaction;

wherein the execution of said risk filter routine includes the steps of:

generating an available balance for the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty based upon the at least one user-supplied risk parameter, payments made by the account holder, and payments received by the account holder;

reading the first instruction from the payment queue of the payment bank system; and

determining whether to selectively reject payment authorized by the first instruction based upon the available balance and said at least one user-supplied risk parameter associated with the counterparty;

wherein the first instruction is returned to the payment queue for later re-evaluation in the event that the amount of payment authorized by the first instruction exceeds the said available balance.

Claim 58 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, further comprising the step of: generating the said at least one user-supplied risk parameter on a user system and communicating the at least one user-supplied risk parameter to the said risk filter routine.

Claim 59 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein payment authorized by the first instruction is rejected in the event that the amount of payment authorized by the first instruction exceeds the said available balance.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein the available balance is computed over a given time period based upon payments made by the account holder in the given time period and payments received by the account holder in the given time period.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 60, further comprising the steps of:

- receiving user-supplied updates to the at least one user-supplied risk parameter; and
- updating the available balance to reflect such user-supplied updates.

Claim 62 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 61, further comprising the steps of: generating the user-supplied updates on a user system and communicating the user-supplied updates to the said risk filter routine.

Claim 63 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 60, further comprising the steps of:

- receiving updates to payments made by the account holder in the given time period; and
- receiving updates to payments received by the account holder in the given time period;

and

- updating the available balance to reflect such said updates.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 63, wherein updates to payments made by the account holder and updates to payments received by the account holder are received through data interchange with existing payments confirmation services.

Claim 65 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 60, further comprising the step of receiving user-supplied updates to the at least one user-supplied risk parameter for use in ~~the~~ said risk filter routine.

Claim 66 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 65, further comprising the steps of: generating the user-supplied updates on a user system and communicating the user-supplied updates to ~~the~~ said risk filter routine.

Claim 67 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein the risk routine is executed by a module integrated into ~~the~~ said payment bank system.

Claim 68 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein the risk filter routine is executed by a module that communicates to ~~the~~ said payment bank system via an application-to application interface which translates data formats between the module and ~~the~~ said payment bank system.

Claim 69 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 67, wherein the at least one user-supplied risk parameter is generated on a user system and communicated to a central server, which stores the at least one user-supplied risk parameter in a data server and forwards ~~the~~ said at least one user-supplied risk parameter to the module integrated into ~~the~~ said payment bank system that executes ~~the~~ said risk filter routine.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 57 wherein said risk filter routine cooperates with other payment processing operated by said payment bank to determine whether to selectively reject payment authorized by the first instruction.

Claim 71 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein ~~the~~ said risk filter routine cooperates with a domestic payment system operated by said payment bank, such that the first instruction is filtered by said risk filter routine for compliance with a risk profile generated from ~~the~~ said at least one user-supplied risk parameter.

Claim 72 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein ~~the~~ said risk filter routine controls the flow of payment messages from the payment queue to a domestic payment system for clearance.

Claim 73 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein the first instruction comprises a S.W.I.F.T. Society for Worldwide Inter-bank Financial Transmissions (S.W.I.F.T.) payment transaction.

Claim 74 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 64, wherein updates to the payments made by the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty and updates to payments received by the ~~Counterparty~~ counterparty rise S.W.I.F.T. Society for Worldwide Inter-bank Financial Transmissions (S.W.I.F.T.) messages.

Claim 75 (currently amended): The computer-implemented method of claim 57, wherein ~~the~~ said risk filter routine interoperates with a plurality of payment channels for any given currency.